Michael F. Easley
Governor

State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

GOV. EASLEY PROCLAIMS HURRICANE AWARENESS WEEK MAY 18-24

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley is urging North Carolinians to take necessary steps to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season, including putting together family preparedness kits, identifying evacuation routes and knowing the location of shelters.

 "North Carolinians know firsthand the devastating impact a hurricane can have on people's lives, properties and communities," said Easley, who has proclaimed May 18-24 as Hurricane Awareness Week. "But, we also know that by being prepared, we can minimize the damage. I encourage people to begin planning now by putting together preparedness kits, identifying evacuation routes and familiarizing themselves with the location of shelters in their communities."

Hurricane season runs from June through November. National weather experts are predicting that eight hurricanes and 12 named storms are to hit the United States this year, up 30 percent from normal. A primary cause for this increase is a weakening El Nino climate condition.

Secretary Bryan Beatty of the Department of Crime Control & Public Safety said that residents should know where to evacuate, what to do with family pets and to have a contact person that family members can notify in case they become separated.

"Those who have already prepared for potential hurricanes are well on their way to being prepared for severe weather of any kind and possible terrorist strikes, as well," Beatty said. "We cannot emphasize enough the importance of being prepared."

The items in a family preparedness kit should be stored in a waterproof box or container that is small enough for a family to take with them during an evacuation or to make them self-sufficient in their home in a power outage.

The kit should include non-perishable food and one gallon of water per person per day to last each family member three to five days. The kit should also include the following essentials: